



Minutes of Gnosall Parish Council Meeting

held via zoom on 8th March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr G Gregory, Cllr R Greatrex, Cllr M Booth, Cllr J Lammin, Cllr J Tomkinson, Cllr S Powell, Cllr T Simkin, Cllr M Holmes, Cllr G Payne, Cllr A Mills, Cllr P Alker, Cllr D Webb, Cllr J Archer, Cllr G Symons, Cllr K Ingram, S Ridgewell CSO, Jayne Cooper Clerk

Along with SBC Cllrs P Farrington and M Smith and SCC Cllr M Winnington

3 members of the public

Public Open Forum

Council was informed of a recent incident whereby sheep were fatally attacked by a dog. The matter had been reported to both West Mercia and Staffordshire Police.

There were no other comments.

21/022 To receive apologies and record absences

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Emsley.

21/023 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Archer, as Youth Leader and owner of ACP Bar Services, declared an interest in any discussion about GG's Youth Club or the bar provision at the Grosvenor Centre.

Cllr Alker declared an interest in any discussion about the library and Grosvenor online booking system as her husband is involved in both (voluntary roles)

Cllr Simkin declared an interest in any personal related discussions as her mother is an employee of the parish council.

21/024 To receive and confirm minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

21/025 To consider any Matters Arising not elsewhere on the agenda

Despite further efforts, it had not been possible for the County Council representative to attend a parish council meeting to talk about the forthcoming census.

No information had been forthcoming about the sale of the Royal Oak or whether the vendor would secure the site to prevent anti-social behaviour.

21/026

a) Clerk's Report

The report previously received included a summary of meetings held in the past month as well as planned action in line with COVID Government guidelines on restrictions being lifted. The tennis court would be opened on 29th March and inspected beforehand, the play parks which have been opened throughout the current lockdown continue to be inspected by the Handyman. Appropriate notices will be displayed on recreation facilities and details posted on the website and Facebook site.

Lateral Flow tests had been carried out in the Grosvneor Centre and would continue until 21st March. The Chair reiterated the Clerk's thanks to both Cllr Emsley and Cllr Mills for their continued help with transporting local people to Stafford Showground to have their COVID vaccinations.

GFest21 - plans are progressing particularly for Made In Gnosall that would be held on 3rd July, a family bike ride, a Gnome festival and photography competition. Cfest would be held from 16th-18th July. Confirmation is awaited for the date of the carnival and 10K run.

Laptops for School Children - it had not been possible to resolve the PAT testing issue therefore no further action had been taken.

The Clerk informed Council that it is likely that a new computer is required in the parish office as the one used by the Clerk, which is over 10 years old, had been malfunctioning for several weeks. It may be necessary to replace the computer before the next council meeting.

CSO Report

Cllrs were informed of Parish Online, software available for parish councils that would be beneficial in many ways. The Clerk, CSO and Cllr Archer had attended a free training session arranged by SPCA and would be signing up for a 30-day free trial. The software would assist with planning matters, asset recordings, project work particularly open spaces committee projects and for the Best Kept Village and Heritage Group and possibly much more.

Borough and County Councillors Reports

Cllr Farrington confirmed:

Census 2021 letters had been posted to all households. The census is very much weighted to online completion however there is a telephone service and an option to request a paper copy.

That there is still no legislation in place that allows councils to continue with virtual meetings after 6th May however it is likely that virtual meetings would continue.

Although there is speculation about possible development of land to the rear of Shelmore Way and Knightley Way, he and Cllr Smith had seen the letters received by some local residents and confirmed no planning application had been received thus far.

Cllr Smith confirmed that following the public meeting held on 1st March, he had had further discussion with SBC's Chief Executive Officer and is gathering some answers regarding some of the matters raised

He had been asked to call in an application just outside Gnosall parish boundary, for a horse menage at a property on Radmore Lane.

He is still trying to find a definitive answer regarding whether or not there is a need for planning permission for ponds.

County Councillor Report

Cllr Winnington declared an interest as he is a non-executive Director of NEXUS, the company involved in the roll out of COVID vaccinations. Cllr Winnington confirmed the lateral flow testing across the county, including in Gnosall, was going very well. There had been no further cases of the South African variant of the virus in Staffordshire.

(d) Report from Public Right of Way Group

Notes of the meeting held in February were received.

The Footpath Friends initiative would soon be launched and further information on the Kingfisher Trail had been obtained.

A response from Staffordshire County Council on issues identified on Public Rights of Way had been received. There had been a significant rise in the use of the public rights of way through the pandemic which had resulted in a huge rise in issues being reported on the network. The County Council has responded by bringing in additional temporary staff and an additional budget to support work to address the issues. However, some rights of way issues are complex and can take time to resolve. Ultimately the Council has limited resources for its many functions, all of which are under pressure, but the County Council is working hard to address and resolve reported issues and maintain access to the countryside

Report from a meeting of SPCA Executive

SPCA had increased its training programme following the appointment of a Training Officer. Highways issues was reported as being county wide with all parishes reporting similar issues.

21/027 To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

a) Matters relating to the Procedures Review committee

Following Council's approval in December 2020 to adopt NALC's new Model Standing Orders, Standing Orders had been rewritten and some specific amendments that Gnosall Parish Council had approved previously had been retained. The revised draft Standing Orders had been received by all councillors to read. It was unanimously approved to adopt the revised Standing orders as presented. The Clerk to issue hard copies to all Cllrs upon request and ensure the website is updated accordingly.

b) Matters relating to the Planning Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February were accepted. A separate report on possible development on land to the rear of Knightly Way and Shelmore Way was read out along with four recommendations to:

1. Arrange a leaflet drop to all properties that back onto the land in question informing them of what the parish council is aware of.
2. To write to the planning consultant stating that the Parish Council would not approve any access to the land across the Village Green, except for the sole purpose of carrying out agricultural related activities and neither would the parish council consent to access off Forrester's Way .
3. To extend the line of wooden bollards along the open section on the Village Green (frontage with Brookhouse Way) Should access be needed for agricultural reason, it could be requested and retractable bollard removed at an agreed time.

Cllrs noted that although the land in question is currently outside the settlement boundary should Stafford Borough Council decide to include the land in question in their land supply and can prove a housing need that cannot be met elsewhere in the Borough, the need could override Gnosall's Neighbourhood Plan and the current settlement boundary.

It was approved to accept the 3 recommendations. As the author of the report, Cllr Greatrex abstained from voting. Clerk to action.

Borough Councillors confirmed that the current Local Plan is in place until a new plan is approved (no gap in between) and there are opportunities to ensure the views of the parish council and its parishioners are heard before the land in question (and other land if necessary) is included in any future Local Plans. Issues about flooding may be relevant.

The Chair asked Borough councillors to inform the parish council of any information on what would happen if a Neighbourhood Plan did not accord with a Local Plan. There had been no clarification on this from Government.

c) Matters relating to Open Spaces Committee

Council was asked to consider a recommendation from the Chair of Open Spaces Committee to carry forward any unspent allotment income to the next financial year (2021/22) in accordance with Standing Order 6.3(f) Allotment income in 2021/22 would be less than other years as some allotment fees had been waived as a result of flooded plots for the majority of 2020/21. Funds left in the current year can be added to funds received in the next year to allow enough money to carry out some essential repairs. This recommendation was unanimously approved.

Councillors were informed that despite efforts to find alternative land for allotment, there was no land available

d) Matters relating to the Grosvenor Committee

A report from the Community Incorporation Organisation (CIO) Working Group, tasked with looking into the benefits of forming a CIO, was received and noted. Further meetings are planned, and Council would be updated accordingly.

e) Matters relating to the Communications Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February were received. The next edition of the parish council's magazine, GMK, would include a survey asking residents if they preferred a hard copy or an online copy.

21/008 To discuss highway matters

Subject to three minor amendments, the minutes of the public meeting held on 1st March to address issue with local roads, were approved. A copy of the minutes would be sent to County Council officers who had attended the meeting as well as being posted on the council's website.

Cllr Winnington was asked if he had any follow up information about agreed repairs on Knightley Road (as discussed in the public meeting). He said this is ongoing and county officers are working towards having a programme in place.

A meeting between SBC and SCC, as recommended in the public meeting is yet to be arranged.

Highways matters to report:

- Dangerous pothole on drainage grid just past Old Barn Close travelling towards Ranton
- Verge damage on junction of Audmore Road and Greenfields

21/029 To consider suspending Standing Order 3.4 (j) to allow the exiting Chair to continue for a further 12 months from May 2021

Cllr Gregory left the meeting

Cllr Alker explained that because of the COVID pandemic, the council had adopted new ways of working especially meeting virtually. With continued uncertain times ahead, Cllr Alker considered it to be sensible if the current Chair could continue, subject to being nominated and voted for at the Annual Meeting, as Chair of the Parish Council as she had managed virtual meetings including a public meeting very well and had attended training on virtual meetings

Therefore, Cllr Alker proposed Standing order 3.4(j) is suspended to allow the current Chair who, In May 2021, would have completed 3 consecutive years as Chair, to be eligible to be nominated for the position of Chair for the next council year. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

Cllr Gregory was called and asked to return the meeting.

21/030 To accept accounts for approval for the month of March 2021 and receive details of receipts for the month of February 2021

The accounts and receipts were approved as presented.

21/031 To agree the date and time of the next meeting

12th April 2021 at 9pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Gnosall Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
264	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Salary	GPC	E	634.92	0.00	634.92
273	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Parish hotline expenses	J Archer	E	20.00	0.00	20.00
265	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Salary	GPC	E	2,178.94	0.00	2,178.94
262	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	covid safety items (gloves,	TFM	S	16.50	3.30	19.80
274	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	parish alarm service and	Phoenix Security	S	130.00	26.00	156.00
271	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	domain name renewal	R G Alker	S	137.00	27.40	164.40
266	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Salary	GPC	E	474.15	0.00	474.15
267	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	NI&PAYE	GPC	E	1,210.11	0.00	1,210.11
268	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Pension	GPC	E	1,153.72	0.00	1,153.72
275	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	refund to Gnosall United	GPC	E	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
269	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Handyman duties	P Prince	E	227.50	0.00	227.50
270	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Handyman duties	P Prince	E	32.50	0.00	32.50
263	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	Grosvenor Architects fees	Etc design	S	4,248.80	849.76	5,098.56
272	08/02/2021		Co-operative	BACS	BKV materials	EFC	S	38.50	7.70	46.20
Total								11,502.64	914.16	12,416.80